

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCI-06 SCEM-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /060 W

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P R 182055Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9465

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 5134

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, DR

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM REFINING IN THE CARIBBEAN

REF: A. STATE 245843

B. SD 4829 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ASKED IN REF. A:

1. A. CRUDE IMPORTS: 44,700 B/D. ABOUT 75 PERCENT FROM VENEZUELA AND 25 PERCENT FROM CARIBBEAN REFINERIES AT CURACAO, ARUBA, AND TRINIDAD.

2. B. LOCAL REFINERY CAPACITY: 28,000 B/D. CURRENT THROUGHOUT ABOUT 23,000 B/D.

3. C. EXPORTS: NONE

4. D. CRUDE AND REFINED SUPPLIES ON HAND: LOCAL REFINERY OPERATES WITH ABOUT 21 DAYS SUPPLY (516,600 BRLS); LARGEST OTHER DIRECT IMPORTER OF RECONSTITUTED CRUDE, FALCONBRIDGE FERRO-NICLE MINING OPERATION, MAINTAINS ABOUT 14 DAY SUPPLY (140,000 BRLS). ALL ENTITIES REPORT NORMAL OPERATIONS UP TO PRESENT.

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5. EXPECTED CRUDE IMPORTS: WITHIN NEXT 30 DAYS, CRUDE IMPORTS

ANTICIPATED ABOUT 816,000 BRLS, ALMOST ALL FROM VENEZUELAN SOURCES.

6. F. CHANGES IN MIX REFINERY OUTPUT: LOCAL REFINERY COMMENCED OPERATIONS AROUND JAN THIS YEAR. REFINERY REPORTS LARGER THAN EXPECTED DEMAND FOR DIESEL (GASS OIL) TYPE FUELS DUE TO INSATALLATION OF MORE GAS TURBINE ELECTRICAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY PETROLEUM CONTACT ANTICIPATES A DECLINE IN LOCAL GASOLINE CONSUMPTION DUE TO ALMOST 50 PERCENT PRICE INCREASES OVER PAST YEAR WITH MORE INCREASES TO COME. HOWEVER, DEMAND FOR DIESEL TYPE FUEL LIKELY TO BE HIGHER THAN NORMAL OVER NEXT 6 MONTH PERIOD DUE TO SUGAR MILLING WHICH IS BEGINNING NOW AND PREVIOUSLY CITED NEW ELECTRIC POWER PLANT. LOCAL ECONOMIST ESTIMATES THAT DR WILL HAVE TO PAY ABOUT US\$50 MILLION MORE FOR ITS PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN 1974 THAN IN 1973 AT CURRENT PRICE AND DEMAND LEVELS. THIS REPRESENTS ALMOST 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN COST OF TOTAL IMPORTS. HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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